

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sealant or coating or adhesive which comprises a rheology regulator ~~regulator~~, comprising a natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, with a specific surface area of around 14 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652, wherein when 50-100% of a precipitated calcium carbonate present in a polyvinyl chloride-based plastisol is replaced with said rheology regulator, and said plastisol is subjected to a viscosity test according to DIN 125 at 20°C, the viscosity at 300 s<sup>-1</sup> is less than the viscosity obtained for the plastisol containing said precipitated calcium carbonate, and which rheology regulator further comprises a polyurethane with terminal silane groups and a plasticiser of the phthalate type.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, has a specific surface area of 14.4 m<sup>2</sup>/g, measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, has a specific surface area of 16 m<sup>2</sup>/g, measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of

fineness, has a specific surface area of  $16.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology-regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, has a specific surface area of  $22 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , measured according to the BET method of ISO 4652.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology-regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1 wherein the natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, has a specific surface area of  $28 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ , measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~A-rheology-regulator~~ The sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with at least one fatty acid containing 10 to 24 atoms of carbon or its salt selected from the group consisting of calcium salt, magnesium salt, zinc salt and a mixture thereof in a proportion of around 0.01% to 5% by weight.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology-regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 7, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with at least one fatty acid containing 10 to 24 atoms of carbon or its salt selected from the group consisting of calcium salt, magnesium salt, zinc salt, and a mixture thereof in a proportion of around 1% to 4% by weight.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, ~~which~~ wherein the rheology regulator has an oil absorption which is greater than 16 measured according to ISO 787-V (Rub-out method).

Claims 10-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim ~~[[16]]~~ 1, which further comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of smoked silica as a thixotropic agent, a bleaching agent, a UV stabilizer, an adhesion promoter, a catalyst, and a dehydrating agent.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method of regulating the rheology during the manufacture of at least one of a sealant, an adhesive, a plastisol, and a rubber, comprising adding natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, with a specific surface area of around 14 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652 to at least one of a sealant, an adhesive, a plastisol, and a rubber in an amount to regulate the rheology of at least one of a sealant, an adhesive, a plastisol, and a rubber.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of around 16 to 24 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of around 20 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of  $14.4 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of  $16 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of  $16.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of  $22 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of  $28 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ .

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with at least one fatty acid containing 10 to 24 carbon atoms or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of calcium salt, magnesium salt, zinc salt, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with stearic acid or a calcium salt thereof in a proportion of around 0.01% to 5% by weight.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with stearic acid or a calcium salt thereof in a proportion of around 1% to 4% by weight.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has an oil absorption which is greater than 16 measured according to ISO 787-V (Rub-out method).

Claim 31 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the rheology of a sealant is regulated.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the rheology of an adhesive is regulated.

Claim 33 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the rheology of a plastisol is regulated.

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 19, wherein the rheology of a rubber is regulated.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The sealant, coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, which is prepared by a method comprising adding natural calcium carbonate, crushed to a high degree of fineness, with a specific surface area of around 14 to 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652 to a sealant, a coating, or an adhesive, respectively, in an amount to regulate the rheology of said sealant, coating, or adhesive.

Claim 36 (Canceled).

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The sealant, coating or adhesive of Claim 35, which further comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of smoked silica as a thixotropic agent, a bleaching agent, a uv stabilizer, an adhesion promoter, a catalyst, and a dehydrating agent.

Claims 38-40 (Canceled).

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of 16 to 24 m<sup>2</sup>/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 1, wherein the natural calcium carbonate has a specific surface area of about 20 m<sup>2</sup>/g measured according to the BET method to ISO 4652.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 7, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with stearic acid or its calcium salt.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The ~~rheology regulator~~ sealant or coating or adhesive according to Claim 8, wherein the natural calcium carbonate is treated with stearic acid or its calcium salt.

Claim 45 (Canceled).

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claims 16 and 17 therein. Claims drawn to the rheology regulator *per se* have been amended accordingly.

Claims 14-17, 36, 40 and 45 have been canceled.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-9, 18, 35, 37, and 41-44 are now active in the application; Claims 19-34 stand withdrawn from consideration.